

NOAA Research International Activities Office FY2001 Annual Operating Plan

Introduction

Over the years, NOAA Research has earned a reputation as a strategic leader for NOAA in helping shape U.S. foreign policy priorities in science and technology as clearly evident under the U.S.-Japan Common Agenda, the U.S.-China Forum on Environment and Development, the Kyoto Summit and several other policy frameworks. Working with NOAA Research and other U.S. research centers, the International Activities Office (IA) aims to help meet both the international needs of the scientific community, as well as the broader national/international needs for sound scientific information for policy and resource management decisions by government and industry. Strategic international partnerships are a necessity for Research to meet the demands for future NOAA products and services.

Mission

NOAA Research aims to improve predictions of environmental phenomena, to explore poorly understood systems, and to provide decision makers with unbiased scientific information. IA supports these goals on the international level by:

- ▶ Advising NOAA leadership on international research issues and providing U.S. policy makers with information on NOAA/OAR's international scientific activities.
- ▶ Supporting NOAA Research's field operations, when requested, on international operational and administrative requests and issues.
- ▶ Maintaining U.S. leadership in oceanic and atmospheric research through the administration and support of bilateral agreements of cooperation.
- ▶ Promoting strategic alliances by exploring new opportunities for partnering with national and international business, government and civil societies that benefit and advance NOAA Research's scientific programs and interests.

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- indicates a FY01 deliverable that was not completed for a specific reason, and/or was postponed.
- ✓ indicates a FY01 deliverable that was completed.
- ✓ **indicates a FY01 deliverable completed which exceeds previous projections.**

FY01 Performance Statistics: Overall FY01 deliverables were exceeded by 25%!

Total AOP deliverables projected:	38
Total AOP deliverables not completed:	4
Total AOP deliverables exceeding projections:	13

FY01 Deliverables and Activities

For purposes of this Annual Operating Plan, deliverable for FY01 have been bulletized and are grouped under each of the four functions outlined under the IA Mission. Please note that this document reflects only the deliverables which we can predict as this time, and does not include any unforeseen activities or involvements IA may engage in the course of FY01 as requested by the Assistant Administrator for Research or the NOAA Administrator.

I. Advise NOAA Leadership

IA will support the priorities of the NOAA Administrator and the Assistant Administrator for Research for delivering new predictive and resource management capabilities for the atmosphere, oceans, and climate. IA will disseminate information about NOAA Research programs and initiatives to ensure support from policy makers in the White House Science Office, the Department of State and other agencies in the U.S. and overseas.

FY01 Deliverables

- Provide the NOAA lead and staff support for senior management for the U.S.-China Development Forum, U.S.-Japan Common Agenda (Q3), and the U.S.-Japan Joint High Level Committee meeting. (Q3) **(None of these high-level meetings took place in FY01)**
- ✓ As directed by the Assistant Administrator for NOAA Research, develop and staff new programs with India and Russia. (TBC)
- ✓ Advise and brief the Administrator and NOAA Research leadership as appropriate on visiting foreign delegations which are relevant to the agency's mission. (ongoing)
- ✓ Submit for review by NOAA Research leadership the DRAFT IA Strategic Framework for Action (Q2) Completed Q4.
- ✓ Submit for review by NOAA Research leadership the U.S. UJNR Five Year Implementation Plan for Aquaculture. (Q3)
- Provide to NOAA Research leadership an overview of U.S. benefits and impacts from NOAA Research's bilateral aquaculture programs with China and Japan. (Q3) Delayed to Q1 FY02.
- ✓ Provide to NOAA Research leadership the FY01 Annual Operating Plan on international deliverables and activities. (Q1)
- ✓ **Completed three FOIA requests for NOAA Research on international oceanic and atmospheric activities.**

- ✓ **Provided AA for Research climate assessments/summaries on India, China and Japan to assist USG in formulating new U.S. policy on international cooperation, both during and after his WH detail. (Q 3&4)**
- ✓ **Prepared correspondence for the Secretary and Acting Administrator in support of the Bush Administration's position on the Kyoto Protocol. (Q 3&4)**

II. Support NOAA Research Travel and Operations Overseas

IA will provide guidance and service for NOAA Research scientists traveling abroad, and serve as a liaison to the foreign policy community both domestically and abroad.

FY01 Deliverables

- ✓ Submit and process Country Clearance Cables for NOAA Research scientists traveling overseas. (ongoing)
- ✓ Assist OAR Laboratories with any problematic issues involving field campaigns and research operations overseas. (ongoing)
- ✓ Enhance outreach, education, and personal interaction between IA Staff and OAR Laboratories by attending lab and science reviews, and providing briefings and information on IA support services to scientists. (ongoing)
- ✓ Serve as a conduit for OAR Laboratory international issues with the Department of State as well as U.S. and Foreign Embassies. (ongoing)
- ✓ Ensure the timely processing of bilateral agreements/contracts between NOAA Research laboratories and research organizations overseas. (ongoing) For specific country portfolios, please refer to section 3 (Administering and supporting bilateral agreements).
- ✓ **Expanded CMDL's global flask sampling network, by gaining support from US Embassy in Finland and Argentina for shipment of flasks to and from Boulder via Diplomatic Pouch. Estimated overhead cost savings for CMDL is 20-25%. (Q4)**

III. Administer and Support Bilateral Agreements

International S&T agreements are valuable tools for ensuring the access to data, facilities, sites and scientific expertise, as well as sharing the costs of international environmental research programs. On behalf of the U.S. Government, IA administers three bilateral agreements in marine and ocean sciences. In addition, IA strategically participates in bilateral frameworks to gain necessary political buy-in and support to advance NOAA Research interests and programs.

FY01 Deliverables

Japan

UJNR Executive Steering Committee

- ✓ Represent U.S. marine science and technology interests to formulate policy for the future of the UJNR. (Q4)
- ✓ Complete the UJNR Web Site in cooperation with the NOAA Central Library. (Q3)
Completed Q2

UJNR Aquaculture

- ✓ Complete 5-year bilateral implementation plan for UJNR Aquaculture Panel. (Q3)
- ✓ Coordinate and execute U.S. participation in the 29th and 30th UJNR Aquaculture Panel Symposia. (Q1, Q4)
- ✓ **Completed UJNR Aquaculture Panel web site in cooperation with the NOAA Central Library. (Q2)**

China

- ✓ Secure official commitment on China's participation in the Argo program. (Q3)
- Process cooperative activities under the Letter of Intent signed between AOML and the Chinese Ministry of National Science and Technology/Institute of Acoustics of Academia Sinica. (ongoing) **(action temporarily suspended by AOML)**
- ✓ Provide the U.S. lead for preparations of the 15th Joint Working Group Meeting on Cooperation in the Field of Marine and Fishery Technology Agreement under the U.S.-China Marine and Fisheries Science and Technology Protocol. (Q4) Ongoing.
- ✓ Support Chinese scientist exchanges to GFDL/Princeton **and the University of Connecticut.** (Q3) Completed Q2.
- ✓ **Coordinated official visits of a Chinese delegation on artificial reef and aquaculture under the U.S.-China Living Marine Resources Program. (Q2)**
- ✓ **Initiated a NOAA Central Library Brown Bag Seminar on seaweed cultivation study with China under the auspices of the U.S.-China Living Marine Resources Program. (Q3)**

Korea

- ✓ Secure official commitment on Korea's participation in the Argo program. (Q3)
- ✓ Establish a partnership with the Argo Subcommittee of the Korean Oceanographic Commission. (Q2)

- ✓ Process Implementing Arrangement #2 under the MOU between FSL and Korean Meteorological Administration. (Q2)
- ✓ Further develop a Korean Sea Grant network under the umbrella bilateral arrangement between NOAA and Korean Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. (Q3)
- ✓ **Initiated and facilitated the presentation of the keynote address by the Associate Director for Weather and Air Quality at the 12th Clean Air World Congress in Seoul. (Q2)**
- ✓ **Integrated FSL's interests in weather forecasting technology under the NWS-Korea Meteorological Agreement (Q3)**
- ✓ **Initiated U.S. Efforts to develop a new aquaculture program between SG and Korea.(4Q)**

Taiwan

- ✓ Process and sign the renewal of the MOU between NOAA and American Institute of Taiwan. (Q1)
- ✓ Process Implementing Arrangement #13 under the MOU between NOAA and American Institute of Taiwan. (Q 2)

Russia

- ✓ Assist NOAA's Arctic Research Office in renewal of the U.S.-Russia Ocean Studies/Arctic Agreement. (Q3) Ongoing

France

- ✓ Further define and identify the specific topics which would serve as foci for future cooperation between NOAA and IFREMER. (Q2)
- ✓ Provide U.S. coordination for the plenary meeting under the U.S.-France Cooperation in Oceanography Joint Session. (Q4)

Regional

- ✓ Support planning, coordination, execution and follow-up for the Indian Ocean Argo Implementation Meeting. (Q3) Moved to Q4 due to new dates (July, 2001)

IV. Promote Strategic Alliances

Partnerships with other government agencies, academia , private sector, civil society and the international community are needed to ensure that NOAA Research products and expertise reach the maximum number of users. Specifically IA will focus on developing cooperative alliances, and securing

outside funding for OAR laboratories and the Sea Grant program to support the NOAA Research stewardship mission in addressing international environmental challenges.

FY01 Deliverables

- ✓ Meet and discuss strategies for approaching Washington D.C.-based environmental organizations for potential partnership activities.(ongoing)
- ✓ Disseminate opportunities for funding to the NOAA Research community on the East Asian Pacific Environmental Initiative (EAP/EI) sponsored by AID, the Environmental Diplomacy Fund (EDF) sponsored by Department of State, and other opportunities. (ongoing)
- ✓ Solicit proposals from NOAA Research scientists for the East Asia Environment Initiative (EAP/EI) through USAID. (Q2)
- ✓ Provide research community information regarding the State Department's Environmental Diplomacy Fund (EDF). (ongoing)
- ✓ Provide outreach and education to funding organizations such as AID, World Bank and others, on NOAA Research products and services that support U.S. foreign policy objectives. (ongoing)
- ✓ Develop a working document detailing IA's comprehensive strategy for developing alliances with partner organizations. (Q3)
- Facilitate further discussion between NOAA Research and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans of Canada to develop a Sea Grant program. (ongoing) (**action temporarily suspended by Canadian side**)
- ✓ Assess possible partnerships between NOAA Research and African meteorology and oceanography institutions. (ongoing)
- ✓ **Briefed the Science and Technology advisor to the Secretary of State and members of USAID on NOAA Research products and services. (Q3)**
- ✓ **Staffed the Under Secretary's Office and NOAA Senior Management on all aspects of high-level official visits from Japan, China, Korea, Germany, Thailand, Russia and SOPAC (Q1-4)**
- ✓ **Represented NOAA Research's interests for the U.S.-Mexico Binational Commission and the International Joint Commission. (Q4)**